

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 26

SuperMondo stressed since 1911.

Monday, October 21, 1991

Gay and Lesbian Albino Dwarves scold prof

by Josey Vogels

Gay and lesbian activists paid a surprise visit to Phillipe Salvatore's Italian literature class at Concordia last Wednesday night.

"We're here, we're queer, and we're not going to vote for you," chanted about 25 placard-wielding protesters as they tried to enter Salvatore's Hall Building classroom where students were writing a mid-term exam.

Salvatore is running for the right-wing Municipal Party in a municipal by-election to be held Nov. 3 in Notre Dame de Grace.

The students were responding to comments Salvatore made about an exhibit of gay and lesbian video and photography. The exhibit was planned as part of Montreal's 350th birthday celebrations next year.

The *Gazette* quoted him as saying the exhibit makes as much sense as sponsoring tributes to dwarfs and albinos.

"It's intolerable for someone who's running for public office to make comments like that and have nothing happen," said Richard Williams of Queer Nation Rose, one of the groups taking part in the protest.

"It is the most stupid statement I've heard in my life. If he talks like that all the time no one will vote for him," added Barbara Cadorette, also of Queer Nation Rose. "Next thing you know he'll be putting down

blind and deaf people. Who's next?"

"We all must be on his list of groups with no status," added Jason Boyd from Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia.

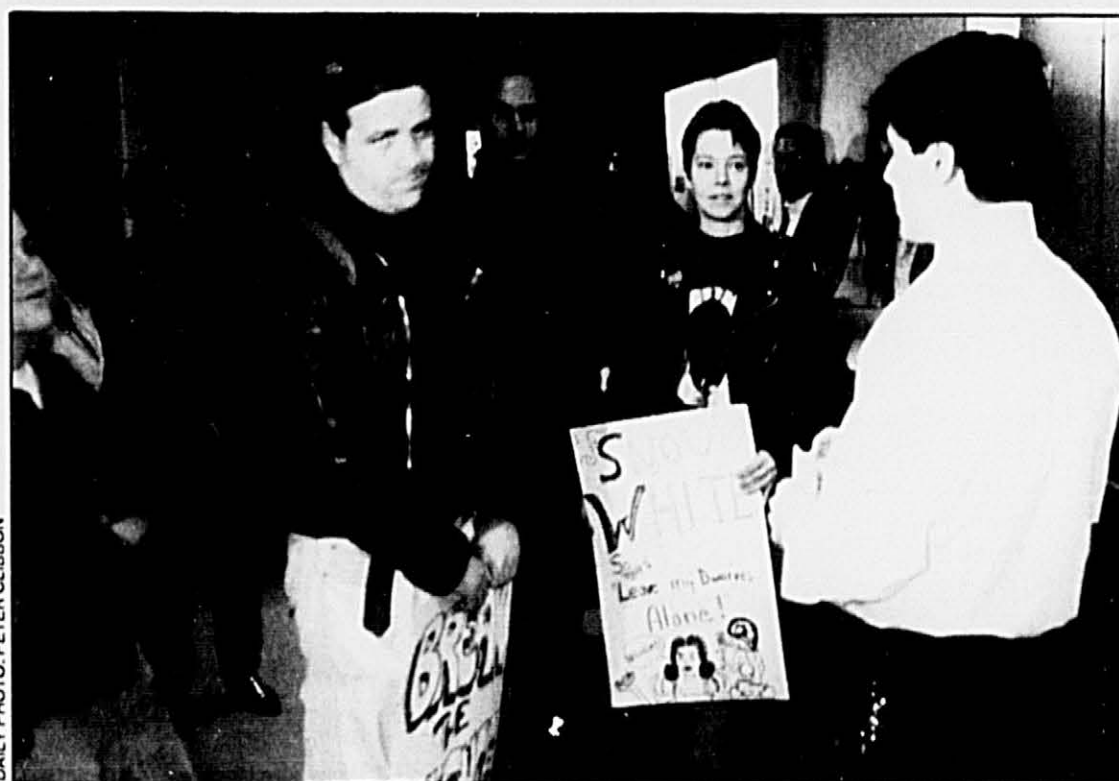
Salvatore refused to comment on his remarks and told a *Daily* photographer, "Take another picture and I'll break your face."

Eventually Salvatore convinced the protesters to wait until after the exam to speak to him and slammed the door. But when security guards showed up and Salvatore came out to speak to them, protesters began the confrontation once again.

Before he retreated to the classroom, Salvatore told protesters he had been "framed" and "completely misquoted" in Saturday's *Gazette* article.

Security kept watch while protesters milled about waiting for the class to end 45 minutes later.

When Salvatore emerged from the classroom, security officers es-



corted him down the stairs and into a small security office on the main floor of the building. The crowd of protesters flocked after him chanting and shouting questions. They waited outside the office and continued chanting for about 15 minutes.

Students in the class were upset about having their exam interrupted. "I took a day off work to study for this exam," a student yelled over Salvatore's shoulder.

"This has nothing to do with

me."

"What's one exam compared to 2000 years of oppression," responded one of the protesters.

Another student said she felt the demonstration was out of place.

"Pelt his home and car with tomatoes but don't come into my class and protest," she said. "University is not the place for this kind of demonstration."

But Patrizia Tovorima, a member of the Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia, said it was crucial to

bring the issue onto campus.

"This professor will have gay and lesbian students," she said. "What does this say about freedom of expression to them in class, if they want to write paper on gay culture? This can't go unanswered."

"It's unfortunate there was an exam going on," said Peter Dubé of Queer Nation Rose. "It wasn't our intention to interrupt anyone's academic career, but maybe it will prompt

them to ask some questions and underline the importance of the issue."

Other groups involved in Wednesday's protest included the Concordia Women's Collective, the Coalition Against Violence Against Women and the Montreal Women's Defence Committee.

The Gay and Lesbian, Albino and Dwarf Anarchist Revolutionary Front, formed in reaction to Salvatore's comments, also participated.

Budget overruns top one hundred grand . . .

Students' Society plagued by last year's deficit

by Michael Rottmayer

Last year's Students' Society probably went over budget by more than \$100 000, according to Society VP Finance Lev Bukhman.

Bukhman has proposed a number of cutbacks in this year's budget, including slicing a fund for social awareness projects in half.

"We are being very conservative and fiscally tight this year," he said.

"The recession hit everyone hard in terms of revenue," said former VP External Alex Usher, explaining last year's budget over-run.

Bukhman said the over-run was mostly due to liberal estimates of the Society's revenue generating ability in last year's budget.

But Chantal Thomas, Arts Representative to Council, said that Students' Society wasted a lot of money on frivolities. "Just look around," she said. "They put money into things that were superfluous."

Bukhman disagreed. "The biggest revenue shortfall had to do with Sadie's," he said.

Sadie's, the Society's campus tabagie, is estimated to have broken even last year, Bukhman said. It was expected to make a profit of



Last year's VP finance, Jane Howard: 100 grand in the red

\$29 432.

Students' Society also took \$21 000 from their operating budget to pay its membership fees in the provincial Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec (FÉUQ). The fees were supposed to be gathered from the student body, but due to a timing error they were not included in the university fee schedule, and were not collected last semester.

"Things didn't turn out the way



Last year's VP external, Alex Usher: FEUQ fees hard to collect

they should have with FÉUQ," said Usher.

A number of other Student Society sponsored activities went over budget, or did not bring in enough revenue. The programming network was a large money drain, according to Bukhman. The *Tribune*, *Old McGill*, and the *Red Herring* probably also lost money.

Bukhman blamed some of last year's problems on an outdated accounting methods. Last year's VP



This year's VP finance, Lev Bukhman: fiscally conservative

Finance Jane Howard relied on a system which gave her information about Society finances approximately three months late.

Bukhman said this year the Society's accounts are recorded by the university's accounting system, which allows access to up to date information.

Bukhman has also proposed a number of cuts in this year's budget. The budget proposes decreasing funds for Students' Society com-

mittees significantly.

The Social Awareness Fund is also slated for a cut from \$20 000 to \$10 000 in Bukhman's new budget. The fund was used by many campus groups last year for a variety of projects.

"I think it's a real shame," said Colleen Lashuk, who organized a conference on popular education last year with money from the Social Awareness Fund. "The decision of Students' Society to be non-political is highly political."

"Students' Society has a corporate agenda and this fits right in. They are quickly trying to eliminate social issues from this campus," said Brian Schnarch, one of the students who produced a booklet on Mohawk issues with assistance from the Fund last year.

The exact amount of last year's budget shortfall will be in the auditor's report, which is expected to be handed to Students' Society this week or next week.

Bukhman's proposed budget will be debated Thursday at Council.

He stressed keeping this year's budget in line: "We have to scale back to make sure this doesn't happen again."

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The JET Programme needs Canadians, preferably under 35 years of age, who will be in possession of a university degree by the end of July 1992 and who desire to travel to Japan to work as Assistant English Teachers for one year.

The JET Programme is an international cultural exchange sponsored by the Government of Japan.

For all relevant details, please come to the Japan Exchange and Teaching Information Session organized by the Consulate General of Japan at Montreal in conjunction with McGill's Centre for East Asian Studies and TESL Centre.

Date: Thursday, October 24, 1991
Time: 2:30 — 5:00 p.m.
Place: The Leacock Council Room (Room 232)
Leacock Building
McGill University

For further information, please contact the Japanese Consulate at 866-3429

McGill Sexual Assault Centre
3480 McTavish, Room 410

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McGill University

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The A.S.U.S. is looking for enthusiastic, motivated students to fill the following positions:

WINTER CARNIVAL CHAIRPERSON:

We need an energetic, creative person to work in conjunction with the Internal Affairs Committee, organizing exciting events and activities for Arts & Science students during the Second Annual Winter Carnival (late January).

RED & WHITE BALL CHAIRPERSON:

This year's Grad Ball needs an organizer! Be responsible for all the details of the evening: the date, hotel, sponsors, pricing.... Make a lasting contribution to your final big bash at McGill!

Deadline for application for Chairperson positions:
Friday, November 8, 1991.

A.S.U.S. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:

Are you interested in \$\$\$? How it's spent, where it comes from? Are you a full time student in Science or Arts? Then you can fill the empty seat on the A.S.U.S. Finance Committee!

Deadline for applications: Friday, November 1, 1991.

All applications can be picked up at the A.S.U.S. office in the Eaton Building, Room 506. Any questions, please contact Tricia Silliphant or Rebecca Lindley at 398-6979.

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REFERENDUM:

NOVEMBER 5 - 7, 1991

QUESTION 1:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Students' Society of McGill University implement the Student Prescription Drug and Accident Insurance Plan as outlined in the Master Policy, an authorized copy of said Policy being made available at each and every Referendum Polling Location, and that for this purpose the Students' Society of McGill University levy an exceptional assessment, to be henceforth known as the Student Prescription Drug and Accident Insurance Fee, of forty-three dollars and eighty cents (\$43.80) per annum, the total being comprised of a monthly Premium of three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65) per Society member per month of coverage under said Plan, plus any and all applicable Provincial and/or Federal Government taxes and/or levies, on each and every member of the Society, with collection of said Fee and implementation of said Plan to commence in the January, 1992 University Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

An increase in the annual Student Prescription Drug and Accident Insurance Fee may be approved by Council to a maximum of forty-seven (\$47) dollars per annum per Society member, plus any and all applicable Provincial and/or Federal Government taxes and/or levies.

QUESTION 2:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

All references to the term Joint Management Committee in the Students' Society of McGill University Constitution, By-Laws and Policy Manual be Financial Management Committee.

"YES" AND "NO" COMMITTEE PETITIONS DUE:
FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1991, 5 p.m.

(Forms can be obtained at S.S.M.U. desk)

Submit to:

Deanna Vanderyagt and William Stee,
C.R.O.
at S.S.M.U. desk.

EVENTS

Monday, October 21

Stop violence against women demo at Pine-Park interchange. Meet at the corner of Park and Léo-Pariseau at 16h30.

Lesbian Studies Coalition meets at 19h in the Simone de Beauvoir lounge, 2170 Bishop. Phone 848-7474 and leave message for info.

Volunteers are needed to animate activities, for friendly visiting and as drivers for seniors who have lost some of their autonomy. Call Brenda Lacey, 989-1781, at The Quality of Life Project.

Lecture on Wole Soyinka Post-1968 Theatre in Europe: Paradox in Theatre, by Prof. Joachim Fiebach of Humboldt University, Berlin. Faculty Lounge (Rm. 116), Peterson Hall at 16h30. 398-4220. Free.

McGill's Latin American Awareness Group weekly meeting at 17h, Union 302. New members welcome.

McGill International Development Students' Association Media Analysis Group is screening *The Public Mind* with Bill Moyers for free at 19h30. Discussion to follow. Union 310, 849-1690. All welcome.

Lesbian and Gay Employees of McGill meeting at 17h30, Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, 4th floor board room. new members welcome, academic and non-academic, TAs and RAs.



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EST. 1918

He's shouting so loud you can see his tonsils

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Community disappoints Montréal women's bookstore

by Viviane Weitzner

L'Essentielle, Montréal's only exclusively women's bookstore, closed its doors to the public last Tuesday. Financial difficulties and a lack of community support forced the bookstore to close after a four and a half year struggle.

"We've decided to close the shop because we can't survive anymore," said co-owner Odette Desormeaux. The owners' efforts to keep the store in business have led them to accumulate large personal debts.

The bookstore stocked a wide selection of French and English books addressing all types of women's issues from non-sexist children's books to lesbian and feminist theory. L'Essentielle also organized well-attended readings.

Government decisions over the past few years have increased costs dramatically for bookstore owners. The goods and services tax is charged on commercial rents, postage and shipping costs. The Canada Post special mailing rate is about to be cut altogether. And city taxes on commercial permits are very high.

Not only are expenses in the 90's higher than ever, but, according to Odette, women are also buying fewer books than they used to.

"This is far from being the 1970's, and especially the 1980's where book consumption was very high," Odette said. "I don't think it will ever be as high as it was in the 1980's. We just bought books. We saw things, we bought. But I do think that now women watch what they are buying, and they consume more in used book shops... women think before buying."

The lack of support L'Essentielle received from the community was one of the main factors contributing to its collapse.

"Montréal communities have not necessarily supported this store," said Odette. "Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver's women bookstore's are doing very well. There has to be a political commitment from the community to support the women's bookstore and the ideology it stands for. It's fine to have theories but they have to be followed by ac-



tion," said Odette.

Women's bookstore's in other and sometimes smaller cities are thriving because women are politically committed to buying their books there. They also receive orders from institutions.

Students in the Women's Studies programme at the University of Ottawa pressured professors to order all their books through the Ottawa women's bookstore, Odette said.

L'Essentielle was a registered or accredited bookstore, a status granted by the Québec Ministry of Cultural Affairs to professional bookstores whose service is considered essential to the community. Large institutions such as libraries and universities are allowed only to order through accredited stores.

But the orders from such institutions and Montréal professors were scarce, according to Odette.

"This fall, for example, we had eight teachers ordering books through us," Odette said. "All of them, except for one, were from Concordia. I am very surprised that we didn't get any orders from McGill University, or from the University of Montréal. Because

they all have, in one form or another, some Women's Studies programme."

Professor Peta Tancred, director of the Women's Studies minor programme at McGill, said that there ought to have been more of a collective effort to order through the women's bookstore. "For students, and for ourselves, it is the way to go," she said.

Tancred said she was concerned about a possible "backlash" that would affect future "ordering" relations with the McGill bookstore.

But Horast Bitschofsky, manager of the McGill Bookstore, said that there is no binding policy that forces McGill Professors to order through the bookstore.

Professors have chosen to support and order through other bookstores such as Paragraphe and Liberation Books when it was still in operation, according to Bitschofsky.

Although support from institutions would have helped L'Essentielle's survival, there are more complex problems to be considered. The three women's bookstores that existed prior to L'Essentielle shared its predicament.

According to Bitschofsky, whether or not a bookstore does well depends not only on its physical location, but on its location within a given community and culture. L'Essentielle's physical location, 420 Rachel E. (St. Denis), is close to the metros and is the centre of the lesbian community. Thus, physical location was not determinative: the store was not particularly ill-positioned, and people genuinely interested in buying women's books in a woman's space could easily make the trip.

Lawrence Boyle, owner of Montreal's Gay/Lesbian/Feminist bookstore L'Androgyne, attributes the failure of exclusively women's bookstores in Montréal to a number of factors. He sees women's studies as an American phenomenon, or more generally, an Anglo-Saxon phenomenon. Most books on women's issues are in English, and the main supporters of women's bookstores are English-speaking.

According to Boyle, most bookstores are going through economic hard times. "We've had a hard year. Some of us made it, some of us didn't, but it hasn't been fun," he said. Because it is not an accredited bookstore, it does not get large orders. Boyle attributed L'Androgyne's success to its faithful clientele.

Both Odette and Boyle speculated that there might not be a large enough community in Montréal interested in women's issues to support an exclusively women's bookstore.

Carellin Brooks, a member of McGill Women's Union said:

"I think it's incredible that in a city as big as Montréal we can't support one women's bookstore. We are in part to blame. I think that we could have done a lot more than we have. I want to personally apologize to the owners of L'Essentielle."

As a gesture of solidarity by their friends, a raffle has been organized to help Odette Desormeaux and Martine Huysmans with their debts. Prizes include craftwork, massages and restaurant dinners. Tickets will be available this week at Concordia's University Students' Association.

Full-time university enrolment soars

by Brian Boyer

More undergraduate students and fewer part-time students are attending Québec universities this year.

These results were released in a report on university attendance by the Québec association of university rectors and principals (CREPUQ).

But university administrators disagree with student representatives on the reasons for the migration to full-time undergraduate studies.

"It is possible to draw from these changes in enrolment that Québeckers are believing more and more in a solid university education as the best investment for their futures," said a CREPUQ statement.

Members of Québec's oldest student federation, L'Association

Nationale des Étudiants et Étudiantes du Québec (ANEEQ), said more students are switching from part to full-time studies because increased tuition fees are forcing students to seek extra government financial aid.

"It is easier to get a student loan as a full-time student," said ANEEQ executive member Julie Gervais. "However, students must now carry a much higher debt load than ever before. It's not uncommon to finish an undergraduate degree \$15 000 in debt."

The CREPUQ study also found that women in Québec now make up 52 per cent of full-time students, up 4000 students compared to last year.

Gervais said that in poor economic times, women students are more pressured than men to return

to university.

"Women are usually the first to find themselves out of a job, so that's why you see them returning to school in higher numbers than men," said Gervais.

The report contradicts predictions made two years ago by students and then-Education minister Claude Ryan. Ryan said enrolment would drop five per cent as a result of tuition increases. Student association leaders said the number would be closer to 14 per cent in the long run.

Concordia registrar Bruce Smart said fee hikes have not affected enrolment because "loans and bursaries were adjusted accordingly," when the fee increases were introduced.

"Students did not have to find extra money," he said.

But Darren Porter, executive member of Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA), said tuition fee increases and the recession induced greater enrolment levels only because students chose to finish their education instead of remaining unemployed.

"If there are jobs, people study on the side. But when there are no jobs, returning to school is a sensible option," he said.

He said CUSA is still opposed to fee hikes because of the added debt burden it puts on some students, especially out-of-town and international students.

The report also discovered that enrolment in post-graduate programmes rose this year as increasing numbers of students, especially women, returned to pursue higher education.

The number of full-time stu-

dents in masters and doctorate programmes increased by 5.6 and 7.3 per cent respectively.

Frédéric Kantorowski, an executive member of University of Québec at Montréal's students' association, said enrolment in one-year certificate programmes at UQAM is up since last year.

"These programmes are designed to help student upgrade [specific] skills necessary to be competitive in the job market," said Frédéric Kantorowski. "The recession is a factor which encourages people to return to school."

UQAM, Concordia and McGill universities have raised tuition fees by 168 per cent since 1989. Before the increases, fees had been frozen since 1969 at \$550 per year in an effort to increase accessibility of universities.

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Nelson Mandela is out of prison now, but South Africa is still a long way from dismantling apartheid and extending equal universal suffrage. South Africans still need our support. And McGill's South Africa Committee still has an important educational role to play on campus.

But a Students' Society finance committee has recommended that Student Council slash the South Africa Committee's budget drastically. If the Joint Management Committee's recommendations are carried through, South Africa Committee will have a budget of \$2180, instead of the \$4800 they requested. Committee members were not consulted over the proposed reduction.

The South Africa Committee budget will go to a vote on this Thursday. If you believe that South African issues should continue to be a Students' Society priority, contact your own representatives on council by phone or leave a note in their boxes at the Student Council offices. Make your opinion known. The following is a list of council reps.

Arts:

J. Sparks

847-1564

I. Pilarczyk

844-6220

C. Thomas

Architecture:

D. Gruber

398-6700

Dentistry:

Z. Der Khatchadorian

Education:

A. Low

398-7048

Engineering:

M. Mather

398-4396

Law:

H. Mathieu

939-5711

Management:

M. Tessier

398-7292

Medicine:

S. Bocusz

Music:

H. Yeung

398-4551

Nursing:

M. Saul

Physical and Occupational Therapy:

C. Echols

Science:

S. Becker

284-4936

A. Kassirer

Social Work:

J. Staton

481-3052

Student Senators and Governors:

R. Cheng

499-1802

A. Clark

M. Sullivan

Residence Rep:

M. Shebbeare

284-4490

Athletics Rep:

J. Stewart

284-4866

Club Reps:

J. Dzerowicz

286-0988

S. Ahn

A. Hill

Council Speaker:

A. Atlas Hall

935-5995

LETTERS

Fight Apartheid

To the Daily:

We, the members of the Caribbean Students' Union of Concordia University, have received news of the fact that the powers that be have decided the fight against the oppressive system of apartheid in South Africa is over, thereby closing down the facilities of the anti-apartheid group functioning at McGill University. If this is so, we feel a grave mistake has been made.

Native Africans, as you know, have been struggling for many years to regain the freedom and power stripped from them by their colonizers. Although there have been signs of the destruction of the apartheid wall, there is unfortunately a long road ahead for its complete destruction, the acceptance of its demise by the white Afrikaners, and the building of a strong, unified, and equal system of government for all the people of the South African country.

We, the members of the Caribbean Students' Union of Concordia University, ask you to please reconsider

your position on the matter of the anti-apartheid group at McGill University. Their work is important to us all!

Caribbean Students' Union,
Concordia

Slavery in Residence

To The Daily:

A recent residence council meeting has indicated that the Royal Victoria College residence had plans to give a "servant-for-a-day" sale on October 30th. Several women in the residence would have volunteered themselves to be sold to a buyer.

It is shocking to see any woman (or man for that matter) willingly become a "servant" to anyone wishing to pay nominal sum. I am appalled that the residence council would promote such behaviour, especially considering the numerous movements toward both equality and the abolition of violence against women.

The fight over oppression by individuals and groups still continues today. Slave labour has been used throughout history



NEWS ITEM: The SSMU decides the time is right to be apolitical

as a means of exploitation. This event would have been mocking the actual hardships women and men have had and still have to endure.

McGill is a highly reputable institution endowed with ethnic diversity. As part of the university, both RVC residents' council members and those who would

have aided them in such an event appeared ignorant as to the implications of their decisions. The women of RVC who would have volunteered for this fundraiser, as well as the coordinators of it, should recognize the historical significance and negative connotations this type of event evokes.

Although this fundraiser has recently been cancelled, it is important to recognize the seriousness of events such as this.

Nadra Qadeer
UI Arts

continued on page 6

HYDE PARK

The road to rape

—Opinion by members of the Walk Safe Network

Angry people are meeting at 4:30 this evening to protest the four - or five - or six - assaults that have taken place this month at the Pine Park interchange. We want those assaults to stop. We want the perpetrator(s) caught. We want the interchange made safer for women by the addition of lights and a police foot patrol.

But that is not all that we are angry about.

We are angry that one of the women who was assaulted was told she was "lucky" that she hadn't been raped. We are angry that the police "wonder what is going in the mind" of someone who attacks women.

We are angry at the way the social context of sexual assault is marginalized. Sexual assault doesn't "just happen". It is a product of a social climate where women are singled out - as a group - to be objectified, to be disbelieved, to be harassed, to be attacked. We are angry at the complicity of the government, much of the press, and too many men.

Let us be more specific.

We are not being hypersensitive when we say that the sexist, racist and homophobic *Commerce Communiqué* should be removed from the newsstands. It advocated kicking a woman in the teeth if she wouldn't consent to sex. Just like the Engineering Pub Nite posters earlier this semester, it actively promotes violence against women and calls it a joke. We call it legitimization. And we are not amused.

We are angry at the spectacle of United States Senate confirmation hearings in which a woman was - once again - disbelieved (accused of fantasizing)

when she accused her former employer of sexual harassment. We think a government - even a 98% male governing body - should make it clear that harassment is intolerable in any context.

Statistics are ignored as effectively as Anita Hill was. We say: one woman in three will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime, two women in three will experience sexual harassment in the workplace. We are told, astonishingly, that it does not matter.

When are we told it does not matter?

When we are told that rapists are deviant psychopaths. If those with authority in this world were listening to the numbers - or to individual stories - someone might have noticed that we're talking about busy psychopaths. Or we're talking about societal complicity.

We are told it does not matter when women's safety is put at the bottom of a budgetary priority list. The city has refused to demolish the Pine-Park interchange - as it was supposed to do last year - despite knowing that it was unsafe for women. But that's not all. They have not even bothered making sure that the interchange is lit. And according to at least one officer, there is nearly no chance the police will even assign a foot patrol to this area.

We think violence against women matters. We think there is a connection between women's being first belittled and objectified, then disbelieved, and then ignored. We think that each woman's story matters. But we will not be told that violence against women is random, or isolated. Women are united in the risks to which they are exposed.

Fight Back: Demonstrate against violence against women at the Pine Park interchange today at 4:30.

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South African women fight sexism in ANC

Kristen Hutchinson
and Brigitte Herz

"Women are oppressed three times in South Africa. We are oppressed as women, oppressed because of the racist system of the government and oppressed by our own men," said Albertina Sisulu.

Sisulu, vice-president of the ANC Women's League, spoke at a lecture to women's groups in Montréal last month.

She said women are the backbone of the South African nation, and called upon black and white women to come together to fight against oppression and apartheid — to "remove the chains off our shoulders and off our men as well."

The Women's League was set up as a branch of the African National Congress to deal with women's issues in the struggle for liberation from apartheid. The Women's League now has 450 branches throughout South Africa, almost as many as the ANC itself, which has 655.

At the first congress of the Women's League last spring, members started campaigns on several issues — affirmative action to enable women to attain leadership positions, increased education for women and children, childcare facilities, improved housing, centers for abused women, and economic empowerment.

The Women's League recently called upon the ANC to form a national commission on the emancipation of women to ensure that action on women's rights occurs within the ANC. The commission would monitor and expose discrimination against women in the ANC.

At last August's ANC conference, for example, only nine women sat on the organization's 50-person executive. Only two women sat on the powerful 26-person ANC National Working Committee.

ANC's solutions

The Women's League was banned by the South African regime until 1990, when the ANC and several other anti-apartheid groups were allowed to operate legally in the country.

Victor Moshe, the president of the Canadian branch of the ANC, said women are heavily involved in the anti-apartheid struggle. The Women's League is the "one formal vehicle for women to engage in the anti-apartheid struggle," he said.

Moshe blamed traditional discrimination for the lack of women in leadership positions.

He said the Youth League of the ANC is experimenting with one way to solve the problem. "The Youth League is taking young women from various regions for a national tour, getting them to become familiar figures," he said. He claimed this will give women national visibility and a better chance to win elections.

Moshe also pointed to a series of ANC-sponsored workshops led by women with the aim of "overcoming the constraints that have afflicted them all along. Sometimes because of tradition, women don't speak out, act or take responsibility."

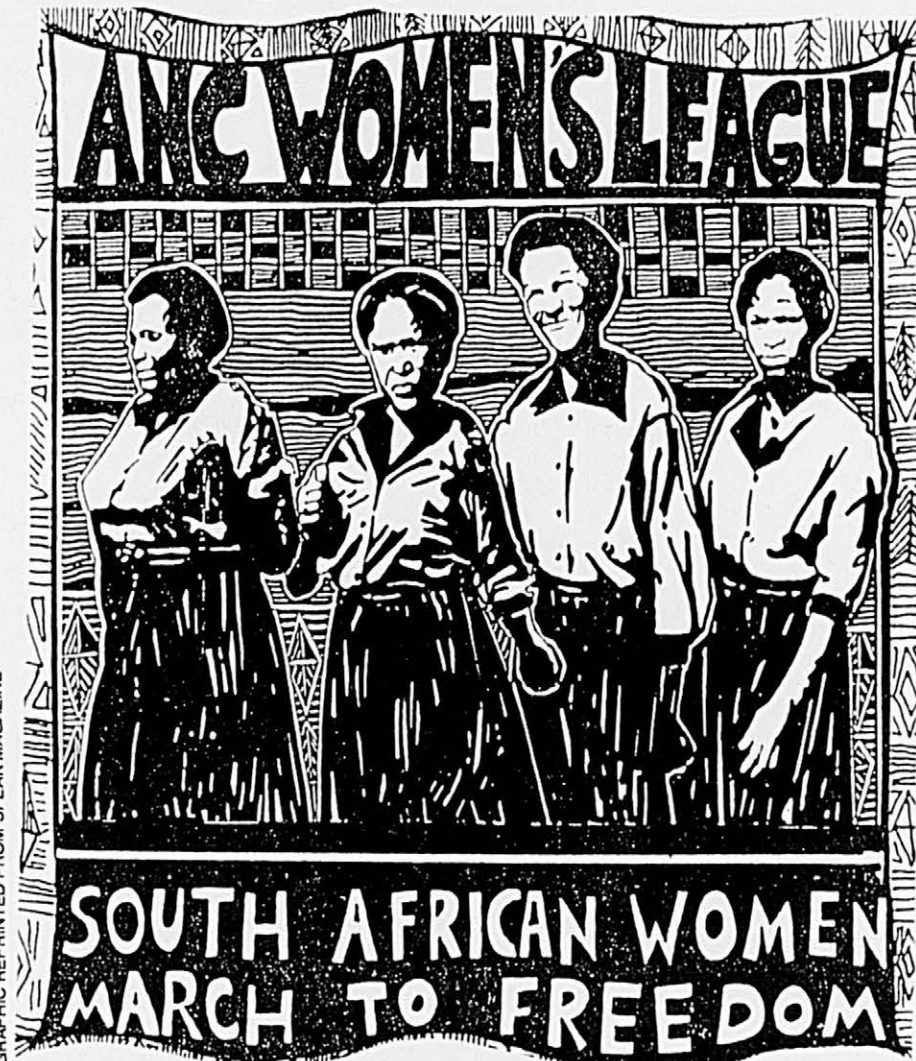
Women's Charter

Joan Fairweather, of the anti-apartheid Canada-South Africa Corporation, said the

When the African National Congress held its first national assembly in South Africa last August, women delegates walked out in protest over pervasive sexism. They had recommended that women be guaranteed 30 per cent of the positions on the ANC executive. The proposal was defeated, although the mostly-male conference still claimed that affirmative action is a goal of the ANC.

The defeat has led to a debate about the severe under-representation of women in leadership positions the ANC. Women made up only 17 per cent at the ANC conference in August.

Even the Women's League of the ANC has come under criticism for marginalizing women.



GRAPHIC REPRINTED FROM SPEAK MAGAZINE

purpose of the Women's League is to "incorporate women into the mainstream. White and black society is chauvinist and women don't have much of a voice." Fairweather said the Women's League is a positive step towards ending sexism and women's silence in the ANC.

One way women's groups in South Africa are improving leadership skills among women is through assertiveness and confidence training, according to Gugulethu Ndekele, a member of the South African Council of Higher Education.

In an interview with CKUT last year, she also observed that "we need to set up gender-sensitive forums within the ANC."

Pierre Beaudet, a representative from CIDMAA (Centre d'information et de documentation sur le Mozambique et l'Afrique australe) agreed with ANC policy that efforts to incorporate women into the group's leadership would benefit the women's movement.

He said the Women's League is the "most representative force" for women within South Africa.

The Federation of South African Women, an umbrella group of all popular women's organizations is drawing up a women's charter to lay out women's goals and projects. The

ANC Women's League is at the core of the federation according to Moshe.

Gwen Schulmann, a representative of GRILA (Groupe de Recherche et d'initiative pour la libération de l'Afrique), said the Women's Charter represents a "laudable spirit of democracy." She said the Charter uses a "cross-color, class and ideology" approach to the women's movement in South Africa.

The Charter would ensure "all South African women's voices are heard, even including the voices of Inkatha women and other formerly marginalized groups," Schulmann said.

Beaudet agreed that a Women's Charter would allow "women's demands to be put into the forefront." But he also said the women's movement in South Africa is still in its "embryonic stage."

Marginalized in the ANC

But many members of the Women's League say the position of women within the ANC is problematic.

Women in the ANC need organizational autonomy to achieve their goals, according to Women's League member Khosi Xaha.

"Comrades do not understand what we

mean by autonomy," Xaha told *Speak*, a South African women's periodical.

"We need to be free to organize. We need our own bank account."

Others say the creation of the Women's League may have marginalized women's issues. One delegate to last spring's national Women's League conference said, "We do not want (these issues) to be something that just belongs to the women's corner."

According to Ashna Vohra, co-coordinator of the McGill Southern Africa Committee, women in the ANC are not incorporated into the anti-apartheid struggle as a whole, unlike in the past.

She said the ANC Women's League is not a legitimate representative of women in South Africa because it perpetuates the structures which have marginalized women in society. After all, she said, it is the men of the ANC who decide which women they will incorporate.

Vohra also disputed the importance of a Women's Charter.

She said women's issues should be incorporated into regular ANC affairs, and that the attempt to draft a Women's Charter is a useless endeavour. "It is simply a way of deceiving the people into diplomatic bullshit," Vohra said.

Vohra also said women have suffered under the apartheid regime in different ways than men. Women have had to deal with their husbands being taken away and their children killed. They have learnt the lesson of fighting apartheid "by any means necessary," she said.

Julianna Sanabbenyi, a doctorate student at McGill and a native of Cameroon, agreed that women are marginalized in the ANC.

The women's movement should not be split from the larger national liberation struggle, she said, and attempts to do so are counter-productive.

Sanabbenyi raised pointed questions about the ANC's record on women at another forum in Montréal last month, in which Albertina Sisulu was among the speakers. She later told the *Daily* that the male voice is the dominant one in the ANC, and that the organization doesn't adequately attack sexism.

She said women have always been the backbone of peace. When families are feuding, Sanabbenyi said women have always been the ones to initiate negotiations.

All black South African women are confronted with the same problems, she said. As a result, they need to work against apartheid and sexism simultaneously.

Another problem with the Women's League is its leadership, many women activists say. Many of the League's members were in exile and have been accused of being out of touch with current problems in South Africa. Many are educated in the West and embrace ideas of

Western feminism which are not widespread among the majority of women in South Africa.

Sanabbenyi said there are difficulties imposing Western feminist thought on African cultures. African communities often stress working cooperatively, while Western feminism more often emphasizes individual empowerment.

She stressed that the women's movement needs to be placed within a cultural context. "I am an African woman, and not everything I learn here in Canada about western feminist theory is useful to me."

Women
have learnt
the lesson of
fighting
apartheid
"by any
means
necessary"

15 000 BC students turned away from school

by Rick Hiebert

VANCOUVER (CUP) Fifteen thousand would-be students were turned away this fall from British Columbia's colleges and universities, according to a student lobby group.

Nearly 9 000 students were put on waiting lists to enter school, and more than 6 000 were not admitted, although they met school admission standards, says the B.C. wing of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS-BC).

And CFS-BC chair Brad Lavigne said the number could actually be as high as 20 000 because several colleges and the University of British Columbia are not included in the tally.

The total number of part-time and full-time students in the province last year was estimated by the Ministry of Advanced Education to be about 130 000.

"It is shocking that the system is so underfunded," he said.

"If we can document 15 000, then it is very safe to say that there is at least double that number who aren't even thinking of attempting to get into the system."

The CFS-BC contacted registrars and student societies across the province to compile the statistics.

"Looking at the numbers, this is

a manifestation of years of underfunding and misplaced priorities by the Social Credit government," Lavigne said.

He said even though there will be one new university in Prince George next fall and another scheduled to open in the mid-90s, these new campuses may not create spaces for all the potential students.

"We have to increase our space system-wide by a massive influx of funding," Lavigne said. CFS-BC is calling for a return to the funding levels prior to the Social Credit freezes in funding.

Former advanced education minister Peter Dueck was quick to defend his government's record.

The Social Credit government spent \$690 million in just over a year to develop an additional 15 000 spaces, Dueck said. The provincial Treasury Board paid \$8 million for an additional 1 078 spaces, he added.

He said the province set up a program for four colleges to work with universities to grant degrees as "university colleges," and the Social Credit government was planning a second trade school.

Former NDP opposition critic Barry Jones disagreed with Dueck's analysis.

"This figure of 15 000 turnaways is really indicative of the lingering

inability of the government to offer educational opportunities," Jones said. "We are far behind the national average in participation rates

and too many talented young people are being turned away."

Jones said the NDP will tackle the accessibility problem with ap-

propriate funding and a four or five year plan, developed in consultation with academic leaders, students and the community.

NEWS BRIEF

Walbran barricades down

VICTORIA (CUP) — Old-growth trees are still falling in British Columbia's Walbran valley, but fewer protesters are seeing them drop.

Protesters called off their summer-long protest to avoid a rash of arrests, and to draw attention to the provincial election campaign, said Bob Arbress of the Friends of Carmanah/Walbran.

The Walbran is a 10 000 hectare, old-growth valley on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island, where the forest giants MacMillan Bloedel and Fletcher Challenge have permission to cut trees.

In response to valley demonstrations earlier this summer, both companies have obtained court injunctions forbidding interference with road building.

To date, 34 people have been arrested and charged with violating the injunction.

Arbress said the Social Credit government had been conducting a "law and order campaign" against the protesters.

"We can no longer allow a small protest group who didn't happen to get their own way to hold up the lives of ordinary men and women who live in the region and depend on the forest," said former Social Credit premier Rita Johnson in a speech Oct. 3. "I

will not stand by and let their lives be disrupted by the lawless actions of a few people who didn't get their own way."

Arbress said protesters moved from the camps to promote consultation instead of confrontation because Johnson's law and order campaign would only lead to more arrests.

"The blockade was costing far more than it was benefitting," said protester Brian Kelcey. "It was accomplishing very little except for its

presence — there were fewer and fewer people in the camps."

Arbress said controversy over a tree-spiking incident last month, the injury of a protester and "tree sitters 80 feet up having trees cut down within five feet of them" also fuelled the decision.

— Derek McNaughton



continued from page 4

Neo-Wildmen Mystics

To the Daily:

Regarding Roslin and LeBaron's murky "satire" on Robert Bly and his putative connection to the KKK: whereas the media-spawned Men's Movement is unquestionably a brain-dead joke, it seems as if the authors of this little op-ed enigma were straying a bit far afield if the KKK was the first social phenomenon they could find to compare with the drums'n'sweat lodge set.

The Klan comparison seems especially strained since the glaringly obvious analogues to these yupped-up neo-wildmen are much closer at hand in the form of their New Age feminist counterparts, i.e. the devotees of Starhawk, Mary Daly, "Wicca," sundry reconstituted Goddess religions and all the other forms of let's ritually-return-our-menstrual-blood-to-the-Earth-our-Mother silliness. Both groups advocate a retrograde essentialist view of gender difference, as well as sharing a deep fondness for shallow E-Z-to-learn mysticism and embarrassing instant "ritual." About the only meaningful difference separating the two phenomena is that the male version, unlike the female, has no entrenched place in any university department. Yet.

Cliff Doerksen
Visiting Student
History

Freedom of Expression

To the Daily:

On Monday I attended a debate on "Gender Neutrality in the Classroom." Gender neutrality is the avoidance of words like "he," "she," and "mankind" unless the specification of gender is intentional and necessary. I was

astonished to learn that gender neutrality has been made policy at McGill, but on further investigation I was pleased to find that the policy is to encourage the use of gender neutral language in the classroom and in papers.

English Quebecers and English institutions in Quebec must continue to oppose all legislation limiting our freedom of expression. Bourassa, Laurin and Parizeau would have had a good laugh indeed if McGill had legislated to enforce gender neutrality, rather than to encourage it.

McGill has shown there is a constructive and positive way to modify the way people speak. It has enacted a policy that serves the interests of the collective while protecting the rights of the individual. Similarly, our provincial leaders would do well to drop their repressive language strategies, restore the suspended fundamental right of freedom of expression, and employ McGill's techniques of encouragement and language advocacy.

Leif Montin
B.Sc. 87

Irrelevant?

To the Daily:

Re: Sam Buggeln's "Signature Efforts Reveal..."

In the spirit of the "Coming-Out" issue of the McGill Daily Culture I would like to confess that I hail from near Toronto, Ontario, and would ask Sam Buggeln if he thinks there is any relevance in "a resounding tinkle" or McMaster's summer theatre program for students to his article.

Robin Bergart, Arts U2

No Censorship

To the Daily:

I am writing in response to Moni

Islam's letter of October 9th, and to all others who have written in condemnation of Emmanuel Chomski. I am truly confused by the outrage which has greeted Mr. Chomski's letters. The fact that I find his opinions interesting and coherent is not the focus of my response, although I hope it encourages him to keep writing whenever he feels the urge, and reassures him somewhat in the face of the negativity focused at him.

The right to express one's opinion is supposedly one of the foundations of Western society. Humiliating someone into silence seems to me to be a dangerous, subtle form of censorship. Is it because Mr. Chomski is so prolific that he seems to have hit such a nerve? The right to free expression doesn't have a footnote saying that it's limited to once a week.

Ms. Islam calls Mr. Chomski's letter "foolish" and "whining," then goes on to write that if he "cannot submit his ideas in any objective and coherent way (for this is indeed possible), he [should] not submit them at all." In my opinion, her name-calling contradicts this possibility. I also invite Ms. Islam to explain the objectivity of her claim that Mr. Chomski's views are all "a barrage of right-wing Jewish rhetoric." Hmmm.

Expressing one's opinions in a medium such as the "Daily" invites response; however, personal attacks and ridiculous assumptions, such as the one frequently made about Mr. Chomski having nothing better to do than write to the "Daily" are counter-productive and pointless. I hope that derisive letters such as Ms. Islam's do not underscore anyone into silence. Oh, I sincerely hope that I am correct in assuming that Moni Islam is a woman, but if I'm wrong, Moni, I hope you don't categorize my

letter as foolish and uninformed as well.

Wendy Schor
History U3

Emmanuel Responds

To the Daily:

In response to Moni Islam, I haven't defended Israel or Israeli policy in any of my letters. I pointed out that some critics of Israel have a double standard. That's all. I didn't say anything about you, Moni Islam, so please don't assume anything about me or opinions which I may or may not have.

Your example of my "weak" reasoning was very well chosen. The example you used of my arguments was satirizing the reasoning that Ms. Valiani used. It should have been weak. It should have sucked. That was the point.

Your attacking me on my improper use of the word "Arabic" is out of place. One, I apologized. Two, my copy of The Random House Dictionary of the English Language has the following entry, "Arabic; adj. 1. of, belonging to, or derived from, Arabia or the Arabs." It seemed like the proper word to use to me. Three, surely even you must have made unintentional, small mistakes in grammar, usage or spelling at one time or another, like spelling my name the way Noam Chomsky does.

Emmanuel Chomski
U1 Chemistry

Palestinians Denied Human Rights

To the Daily:

I would like to explain a bit of my rhetoric nonsense as described by Karen Rabin on Oct. 10. I must question Israel's reasons for being in the occupied territories. Their human rights abuses in the territories have increased in the past year. Is Israel punishing the women

and children of the territories for the actions of the Iraqi leader? I contend that their presence in the territories is merely an effort to gain control over more land while suppressing opposition in the West by explaining it in terms of self-preservation or on religious grounds.

Self-preservation cannot explain the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon because there is already a UN peacekeeping force there. Israel's intention to keep this land is demonstrated by the increased level of construction there, including the planned construction of a dam on the Litani River, the largest river in Southern Lebanon. How would you feel if a neighbouring country invaded your land and then decided to build a dam on your river?

I would like to agree with Mr. Kon's letter on the same day — the issue of the Soviet Jews is a human rights issue. But do human rights only apply to the Jewish people? The Palestinians have no official citizenship, they are often kicked out of their homes to make way for Israeli settlers, many are deported, and they must carry identification cards. If they are found without these identification cards, they are arrested.

Human rights principles apply to all people, including all Jewish people, around the world. I would like to hear any supporter for Israel say that human rights principles apply to all the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israel has a terrible record of protecting these rights (not only do they not protect them, they are the abusers of these rights). That is why I would like to see Israel withdraw from all the occupied territories including Southern Lebanon.

Steven Barnett
PhD3, Chemistry

LETTERS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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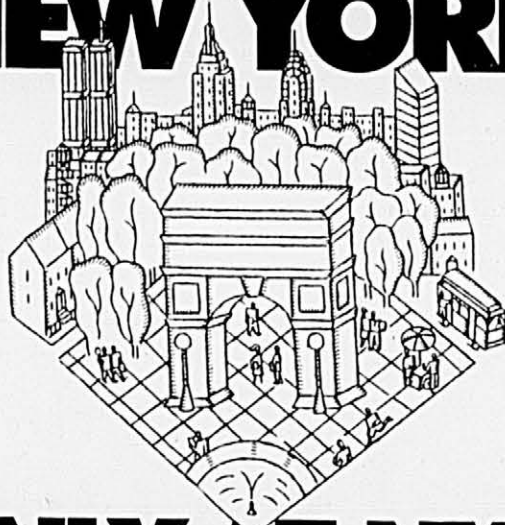
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